



ONIC

Panamá

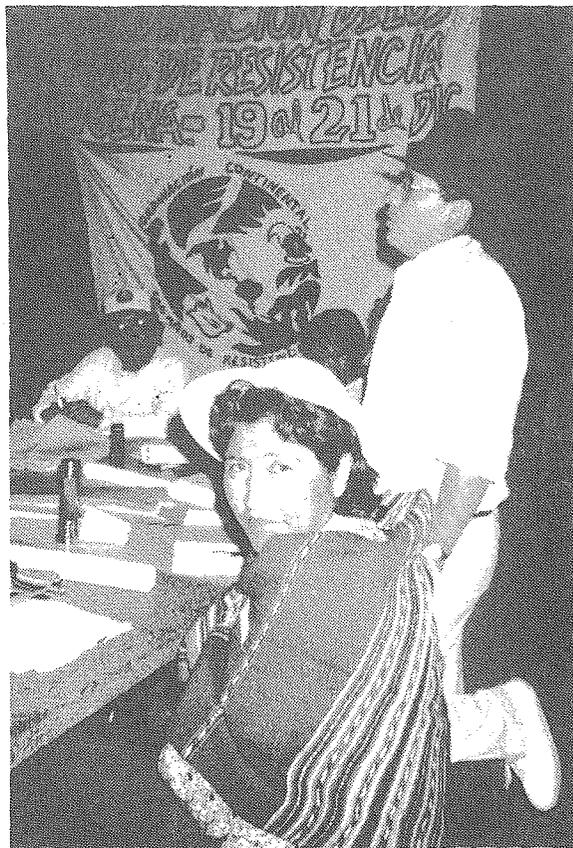


Photo SAIIC

Representatives at the meeting for the foundation of ONIC in Panama

THE COORDINATING BODY OF INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONS OF THE CONTINENT

In December 1991 the main Indian organizations from South, Central and North America met in Panama to discuss the future of the inter-relationship between the Indian People of the Continent, and to define the politics and way of communication with non-Indian people due to the failure of building alliances with some of the grass-roots organizations, especially with the groups that are directing the "Continental Campaign 500 Years of Resistance of the Indigenous, Black and Popular Movement."

Some of the resolutions of the meeting are the following:

There is an urgent need to unify the Indigenous Peoples (Original Nations) of the continent. We want to re-establish and utilize the historical links that were disrupted by the invading colonizers. In this way, together, we are planning the reconstruction of our communities.

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the European invasion, we reaffirm our

historical commitment to unity and to the development of a plan to mobilize for 500 Years of Indian Resistance and Struggle against colonialism. We are declaring to the world that, despite more than five centuries of genocide, more than 40 million Indigenous Peoples from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego continue to live and plan for our future.

We maintain a firm position against all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism, and internal and external racism. We reject all kinds of manipulation and ideological or political imposition, because we, as peoples, have our own ideology. We support alliances with other popular sectors in order to change the conditions of injustice in which oppressed peoples of the world find themselves today. Hence, we have decided the following:

1. To form an Indigenous commission committed to organize a meeting of Indigenous Peoples, the establishment of a continental coordinating body of indigenous organizations and peoples. This continental coordinating body will consist of representatives

of all Indigenous Peoples, Original Nations, of *Abya-Yala* (*Land of Life*, the American continent in the Kuna language).

2. To carry out a coordinated plan of action for 500 Years of Indian Resistance and Struggle against colonialism.

3. To organize workshops and continental gatherings in order to make known the Indian position regarding the 500 years, with the goal of attaining a definitive unity at the continental level.

We reject the celebrations of the so-called "Quincentennial of the Discovery of America," "Encounter of Two Worlds," and the "Quincentennial of Evangelization." We are promoting actions at the regional, national and continental levels which respond to the fundamental interests of our peoples and honor our ancestors who gave their lives defending the dignity of our peoples. In the same spirit, we will continue to confront oppressive forces, such as military invasion and repression, and exploitation of our territories by transnational corporations.

We reaffirm our commitment to a continental Indigenous alliance, and to reciprocal support in our struggles for rights and self-determination, traditional ways of life, religion, culture, and the protection of our Mother Earth with all her resources.

Finally, we call on all nations, organizations, and Indian communities of the continent, even the most isolated ones, to unite in this great effort for action and continental coordination, on the path towards the liberation of our peoples.

Signed on the Dec. 21, 1991, in Kuna Yala, Panama

Indigenous Peoples Alliance Founded in North America

In Jan. 10-12, 1992, the National Indigenous Forum, the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of North America was founded. The meeting took place in Albuquerque, NM and was hosted by the Tonantzin Land Institute. The participants came from the different Indian communities of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and South Dakota, and Alaska. The decisions that came out of the conference represent a consensus by all participants. Some of the of the main resolutions of this conference are the following:

- It was decided to create an alliance called the Indigenous Peoples Alliance. This alliance is open to all Indigenous Nations and organization who are interested in building a long term alliance of Indigenous People who emphasize grassroots community involvement in issues affecting Indigenous communities.

- The Indigenous Peoples Alliance would endorse the Continental Indigenous Coordinating Commission's resolution that was written in Kuna Yala, Panama.

- Tonantzin Land Institute was given the responsibility for sending out all communications being produced and /or being sent by the Indigenous Peoples alliance.

- The Indigenous Peoples Alliance should implement regional meetings that would focus on education and training. It was decided that the first regional meeting would take place in conjunction with the Indigenous En-



Meeting in Kuna Yala

Photo SAIC

vironmental Network conference in the Columbia River area. It was decided that the focus of the regional meeting would be on sovereignty.

- Our logo consists of a turtle (to represent Turtle Island), with the continental campaign logo of the Eagle and the Condor located inside the turtle and the North, Central and South American continent in the Center.

Second CONIC Meeting in New York

The Second Meeting of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations and Nations of the Continent, CONIC, took place in New York City from March 4-7, 1992. The meeting was hosted by the Native Council of New York and organized by Tonantzin Land Institute and SAIC.

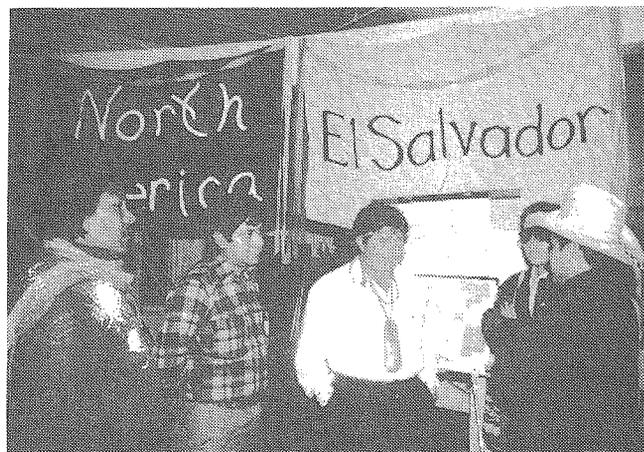
Delegates representing Indian organizations and nations of the continent from 17 countries participated in the Meeting.

Following are some of the resolutions that came out of the meeting in New York:

The Continental Coordinating Body has arisen due to the need to consolidate the bonds of union and communications between organizations and nations native to this continent, which include, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean.

We understand ONIC to be a communication instrument for the Indigenous Peoples of the Continent and not a representative organization. Our objectives are the following:

1. To seek Indigenous unity on a continental level, recognizing that we have a common past and present, and that we have decided to work together beyond the years 1992, respecting the situation and strategies which each Indigenous Nation may adopt to reach their liberation and self-determination.
2. To develop a continental communication network which would directly involve the grass-roots communities in order to strengthen our ties and make known the critical situation in which we the native Peoples live, and seek solutions for our future.
3. To promote a process leading to dialogue and consensus based on our spiritual values, life styles and millennial knowledge.
4. To form a common alliance to reconstruct our Nations which were dispersed by colonization and to fight to curb the destruction of our Mother Earth and her harmony.



Indian delegates: Kuna, Panama; Maya, Guatemala; Mapuche, Chile; and Nahuath, El Salvador

Photo SAIC

Solidarity Organizations:

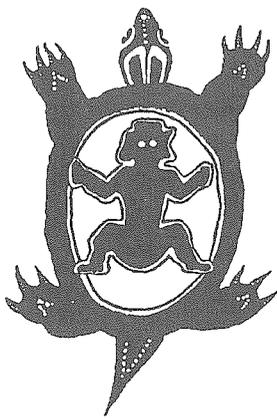
Solidarity organizations and institutions may participate in meetings specifically organized to exchange information coordinate activities, or promote dialogue with members of the Coordinating body. These general prin-

ciples and guidelines will continue to be discussed within each organization and in the Regional Workshops.

This Coordinating Body calls upon all the progressive, honest and committed to join against the contra-celebration of the colonialist plans. In the same form, we call upon the popular sectors and the racially discriminated to form an alliance to struggle against the oppression, respecting, among ourselves our diversity.

Regarding the "Continental Campaign of 500 Years of Resistance Indigenous, Black and Popular Sector"

In 1986, the Indigenous Movement initiated a campaign to disseminate information about the state of oppression under which our peoples live. The movement has taken the opportunity of the Quincentenary as a way to let



the world know about the situation of repression under which Indigenous Peoples live; and to show our rejection of the celebration of the so called "V Quincentenary of the Discovery of America or the Encounter of the Two Worlds," led by the Spanish government and the Vatican and supported by the governments of the colonial states of the continent.

Among the initiatives of the native peoples of ABYA YALA have been to invite the different sectors of the society to organize a common front, based in mutual respect of the differences and characteristics among sectors. This indigenous proposal has been distorted, and usurped by sectors which have always carried out discriminatory practices. Their policy has failed in our region and in other parts of the world, because their project are far from the reality of Native Peoples, because they tried to impose a system of a homogenous society which is based in centralized and bureaucratic power which ignores the right of Indigenous Peoples to Self-determination.

In conclusion, the Indigenous, Black and Popular Sector Campaign, does not respond to the demands of Native Peoples of the continent. In addition, the form in which it is structured does not guarantee that Indigenous proposals will be respected in the future, nor does it allow for an honest alliance based on the right of each people to decide their own destiny, no matter how small the group is.

Therefore, this Coordinating Body calls upon all the progressive, honest and committed people to join us in the struggle of the

oppressed peoples, to join in contra-celebration of the colonialist plans. In the same form, we call upon the popular sectors and the racially discriminated to form an alliance to struggle against oppression, respecting among ourselves our diversity.

Given in New York (Indigenous Land occupied by the United States), 5/5/92.

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El Salvador

POLICE RAID INDIAN COOPERATIVE

On Thursday, Feb. 27, 1500 police raided the Corte Azul Cooperative, arresting 60 Indian men, women and children and destroying crops and supplies. The community members had peacefully occupied the unused government land to plant their crops. The police arrived at 7 am accompanied by three representatives of the United Nations Observation Team, reporters from a local television station and a group of local landowners.

The police ordered the 250 workers from the Indian community of Costa Azul to leave their fields immediately, and when asked for a warrant ordering the displacement, they replied that they did not have one, but President Cristiani had instructed them to proceed as quickly as possible. The workers responded that their crops were already planted and that they could not leave them unattended.

At 2:15 p.m., in the presence of the ONUSAL officials, along with a captain, a second lieutenant, and the director of the National Police of Sonsonate, the police proceeded to intimidate the Indians with their weapons and then arrest 60 Indigenous workers and physically remove them to a nearby command station. The Indians were then taken to the nearby hacienda of Dr. Guillermo García Guerra, where the police officers were received with a special luncheon. During this time, the arrested men, women and children were made to stand and listen to the police say things like, "We should just machine gun these sons of bitches down to solve our problems." Hours later, they were transported to the Sonsonate police station and imprisoned and not allowed to speak with family members or lawyers until Saturday, Feb. 29, when they

were released.

The following local landowners were with the arresting police officers: Andrés García Corona, Rafael Flores, Elsa Gutiérrez Candel, Julia Leiva, Juan Martínez, and the three brothers, Carlos Chacón Moreno, Armando Candel Calderón, and Guillermo García Guerra.

The Corte Azul and nearby Monzón cooperative members have received numerous threats in the past from these men, especially the three brothers, who flaunt their close ties to President Alfredo Cristiani.

The crops, hammocks, blankets, beans, corn, crates, clay frying pans and comales, and a food storage hut were destroyed in the raid.

Source: ANIS (National Association of Indigenous Peoples of El Salvador)